during the last 3 years of these 26 accidents occurred on North Eastern Railway.

(c) 602 unmanned level crossings have been proposed for manning during 2000-2001. These level crossings will be manned subject to availability of fund.

Improvement in Suburban Rail Services

4388. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the exact planning of the Ministry to improve the suburban services of Indian Railway;

(b) how much amount has been allocated in the plan to improve suburban services of the Railways; and

(c) what is the amount of additional resources required how Government are going to raise it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) As per Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1999, Planning and Coordination of Urban Transport Systems is under the purview of Ministry of Urban Affairs and technical planning of rail based systems are under the Ministry of Railways. Rail component of the urban transport systems is catered to by the suburban Railway services of Indian Railways.

Growth in demand for suburban services in Metropolitan areas is met by Ministry of Railways by effecting improvements on a continuing and in a need based manner.

Actual availability of funds is known only at the beginning of each financial year. Hence, the allocation of funds to each Project is done on an annual basis. A list of all ongoing Metropolitan Transport projects, including the amount allocated to each during each of the first four years of the IX-Plan is given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 108]. Balance amount required to complete all these works is also given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 108]. This amount will be made available by contribution from the General Exchequer. Some State Governments are also contributing to the capital investment required for creation of suburban transport

infrastructure in their respective States. Government of Tamil Nadu are contributing 2/3 rd of the cost of the Mass Rapid Transit System—Phase-II being developed between Thirumailai and Vellachery. They are also sharing 50% of the cost of Gauge Conversion of Chennai beach-Tambram-Chengalpattu MG Suburban system. Government of Maharashtra through its subsidiary CIDCO is sharing 2/3rd of the cost of doubling of Belapur-Panvel line and construction of Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi and Seawood-Uran electrified double lines. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has been formed with equity participation by the State Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways. Government of Maharashtra will share 50% of the cost of the projects which are being undertaken by MRVC.

Sole selling right of books, magazines at Railway Stations

4389. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sole selling right clause has been provided in all the bookstall agreements as per the letters No. 461-TG.III/58/9 dated 18th August, 1960 and 1st November, 1960 ;

(b) whether the said sole selling right clause has been withdrawn from all the current bookstall agreements as per letter No. 75/TG.III/461/19 dated 2nd January, 1976 to avoid building of monopoly;

(c) whether the said sole selling right clause has also been withdrawn altogether from the agreement of M/s. AH. Wheeler and Co.; and

(d) if not, what are the detailed reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Previously, M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. had exclusive right for running bookstalls over entire railway or over large portions of railway. From 1-9-1960 these exclusive rights were reduced to only sole rights at stations,